

I would like to register a complaint against Sinclair Broadcasting, and state that, if they follow through on the plan described below, they should be severely sanctioned and/or their FCC license revoked. I'm sure you've heard by now about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. If we haven't seen enough other examples already, here is an extremely clear, incontrovertible example of the dangers of media consolidation. That program does not in any way serve the public interest and damages our already fragile democracy. This is a flagrant and cynical abuse of the public's airwaves (reaching approx. 25% of the nation's viewers) for a partisan political purpose, an action that should put Sinclair's federal broadcast licenses in jeopardy. For comparison, imagine that CBS ordered its affiliates to broadcast Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11."

Sinclair uses our public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.